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AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ON FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to provide for cooperation between the Department of State and the Department of Agriculture under Title VI (Agricultural Attaches) of the Agricultural Act of 1954; to establish certain procedures and relationships; to provide for certain services and to provide for reimbursement for such services where appropriate.

II. GENERAL

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized by Title VI of Public Law 690, 83rd Congress, approved August 28, 1954, to "appoint such personnel as he determines to be necessary and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State to assign such personnel to service abroad"

Such personnel are to be assigned "for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the marketing of agricultural products of the United States and assisting American farmers, processors, distributors and exporters to adjust their operations and practices to meet world conditions." The Secretary of Agriculture is responsible for: (a) the acquiring of information regarding the competition and demand for United States agricultural products and the marketing and distribution of such products in foreign countries; (b) interpretation and dissemination of such information in the U.S.; (c) making investigations abroad regarding the factors affecting and influencing the export of U. S. agricultural products and (d) conducting abroad other related activities as he deems necessary.

The Title also provides:

"Sec. 602 (b) Officers or employees assigned or appointed to a post abroad pursuant to this title shall have the designation of Agricultural Attache or other titles or designations, which shall be jointly agreed to by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Agriculture.

"(c) Upon the request of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of State shall regularly and officially attach the officers or employees of the United States Department of Agriculture to the diplomatic mission of the United States in the

country



country in which such officers or employees are to be assigned by the Secretary of Agriculture, and shall obtain for them diplomatic privileges and immunities equivalent to those enjoyed by Foreign Service personnel of comparable rank and salary.

"(d) The President shall prescribe regulations to insure that official activities of persons assigned abroad under this title are carried on (1) consonant with U. S. foreign policy objectives as defined by the Secretary of State; (2) in accordance with instructions of the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to agricultural matters; and (3) in coordination with other representatives of the U. S. Government in each country, under the leadership of the Chief of the U. S. Diplomatic Mission."

It is further provided:

"Sec. 604 (a) The reports and dispatches prepared by the officers appointed or assigned under this title shall be made available to the Department of State, and may be made available to other interested agencies of the Government, and the agricultural reports and dispatches and related information produced by officers of the Foreign Service shall be available to the Secretary of Agriculture.

"(b) The Secretary of State is authorized upon request of the Secretary of Agriculture to provide office space, equipment, facilities, and such other administrative and clerical services as may be required for the personnel affected by this title. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to reimburse or advance funds to the Secretary of State for such services."

III. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND AGRICULTURE

The Department of State and the Department of Agriculture recognize that the fullest cooperation will be required in order to assure that activities of Agricultural Attaches make their maximum contribution to the needs of agriculture and the Government as a whole in the fields of agriculture and foreign policy.

To this

To this end the two Departments agree through continuous joint consultation to maintain arrangements under which the activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service may be conducted abroad and specifically agree upon the following understandings:

A. The Department of State may obtain agricultural information it requires from abroad by requesting the Department of Agriculture to obtain this information for it. Upon agreement, the Department of Agriculture will, through its regular or special reports, within the limits of time, available facilities, and other operational requirements, obtain, without reimbursement, such information required by State.

B. The Department of State remains free to request agricultural or related information from its posts abroad, but will make reasonable efforts to avoid duplicate or conflicting requests for agricultural information from abroad.

C. Agricultural Attaches will work in full cooperation with other elements of the diplomatic mission in order to assist in full and coordinated coverage of U. S. diplomatic and reporting problems.

D. The Agriculture Department recognizes the primary responsibility of the Department of State for conducting all negotiations with foreign governments. The Department of State will arrange for participation by the Department of Agriculture when appropriate.

E. In view of the small size of the Agricultural Attache staffs stationed abroad and the consequent interruptions in the Agricultural Attaches' work due to illness, emergency transfers and other causes, the Department of State will endeavor to assist in providing continuity in Agricultural Attache work. However, all such assistance will be provided within the limits of State Department resources and workload at the post concerned and at the discretion of the Chief of Mission. This understanding does not commit the Department of State to provide any particular assistance at any particular time and place.

IV. FIELD COORDINATION

The provisions of Executive Order 10575, of November 6, 1954, concerning relationships between the Chiefs of the U.S. Diplomatic Missions and the representatives of other agencies stationed abroad will be considered as applicable to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of State and to their representatives in the field.

V. USDA EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED ABROAD: DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND RANK

A. Titles

Pursuant to Title VI of Public Law 690, 83rd Congress, Agricultural personnel assigned or appointed to a post abroad by the Secretary of Agriculture shall be accorded the diplomatic titles of Attache, Assistant Attache or other titles or designations, when proposed by the Secretary of Agriculture and approved by the Secretary of State.

The normal correlation to be observed between the GS grade and the diplomatic title is outlined below:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Diplomatic Title</u>
GS-12 and above	Attache
GS-11, GS-10 and GS-9	Assistant Attache

The following rules will be observed in granting the titles of Attache and Assistant Attache to overseas Agricultural Officers:

- (a) The titles of Agricultural Attache and Assistant Agricultural Attache may be accorded to officers serving at diplomatic missions.
- (b) As titles of Attache and Assistant Attache are agreed upon and letters of designation are issued by the Department of State, this Department will notify the diplomatic missions to which they are assigned of such actions.
- (c) The titles of Attache and Assistant Attache may be used instead of Agricultural Attache and Assistant Agricultural Attache.
- (d) The position title Agricultural Officer will be used for officer level personnel assigned or appointed to non-diplomatic posts abroad.

American clerical employees will be given position titles under the Civil Service Classification Act; local nationals will be given titles in keeping with local practice and consolidated wage schedules at the post where located.

B. Rank

B. Rank and Precedence

The policies and rules governing precedence for the members of the Foreign Service and all overseas representatives of other departments and agencies of the United States Government shall apply to overseas agricultural personnel assigned or appointed under Title VI of Public Law 690, 83rd Congress. The rules of precedence contained in the Foreign Service Manual, 1 FSM VI, are based on the governing Executive Order.

C. Diplomatic Passports

Diplomatic passports will be issued to personnel assigned or appointed to a post abroad under Title VI of Public Law 690, 83rd Congress, following the Department of State approval of the diplomatic titles of Attache and Assistant Attache. Other American personnel appointed or assigned under the subject law who do not receive diplomatic titles and diplomatic passports will be given special passports.

D. Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities

1. Those diplomatic privileges and immunities which it is within the power of the receiving state to accord will be sought for the overseas agricultural personnel assigned or appointed to a post abroad under Title VI of Public Law 690, 83rd Congress.
2. The Secretary of State will communicate with the Treasury Department to request customs courtesies for agricultural personnel returning to the United States comparable to customs courtesies received by members of the regular American diplomatic missions and consular posts who bear the diplomatic titles of Attache and Assistant Attache and other approved titles and who have been issued diplomatic or special passports.

E. Approving Assignments and Attaching Personnel to Posts Abroad

1. With the concurrence of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to assign personnel appointed pursuant to the subject title to service abroad.
2. As requests are approved, the Secretary of State shall regularly and officially attach personnel to posts abroad, and will notify the appropriate diplomatic mission and, as required, subordinate posts of such actions.

F. Diplomatic

F. Diplomatic Lists

Upon receipt of notification from the Department of State of the approval of the diplomatic titles of Attache or Assistant Attache for Agricultural Officers assigned or appointed under the subject law, the Chief of the Diplomatic Mission will request the foreign government to which he is accredited to include such officers on the local diplomatic list according to their respective title and rank, except under unusual local circumstances which shall be made known immediately to the Department.

VI. INTERIM SERVICES OF STATE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Agricultural Attaches, other agricultural officers, and stenographic and local assistants on the Department of State rolls on November 1, 1954 at Agricultural Attache posts, are continuing by agreement between the two Departments to provide services to the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture will make available to the Department of State funds to cover the cost of salaries, allowances, differentials, travel and support costs of such personnel. The Department of Agriculture will give the Department of State reasonable notice of the termination of these details in order to facilitate necessary reassignments of State Department personnel. It is not expected that any of these details will continue beyond June 30, 1955.

VII. REPORTING SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Effective July 1, 1955, the reporting requirements which are being met for the Department of Agriculture by State Department Embassies and Consulates at which no Agriculture Officers are assigned will be terminated. Arrangements may be made for the provision of occasional special reports from such posts and for the reimbursement to be provided for such services.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

State Department communication facilities in Washington and in the field will continue to be available to the Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Attache Service and will normally be used for communications. All communications concerning agricultural matters from diplomatic and consular posts where no Agricultural Attache is assigned will continue to be handled in accordance with regulations and procedures of the Department of State. Communications to such posts will be transmitted through and reviewed by the Department of State.

The Agricultural Attache at a post will communicate with other Agricultural Attaches as may be appropriate, but will

communicate

communicate with other persons at United States embassies or consulates in accordance with State Department procedure or instructions of the Chief of the U. S. Diplomatic Mission to which he is attached. The Department of State will also continue to process and distribute agricultural reports. The Department of Agriculture will provide funds to the Department of State for these communication services in amounts to be agreed upon.

In the development and application of communications procedures, the two Departments undertake to assure full compliance with the provisions of Section 604 (a) of the Act (see Section II above).

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Secretary of Agriculture requests and the Department of State agrees to furnish office space, equipment, facilities and administrative and clerical services as set forth in approved policies and procedures of the State Department concerning administrative services for other departments and agencies.

X. RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS

The principal officers of the Foreign Service post will allot residential quarters to employees of the Department of Agriculture equitably under the approved policies and procedures applicable to other agencies of the Government.

XI. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Department of Agriculture will, on the basis of this agreement and pursuant to Section 601 of the Economy Act and Section 604(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1954, reimburse the Department of State in the amounts agreed upon to cover the services set forth in sections VI, VII, VIII and IX of this agreement. In future fiscal years, agreement upon the amount of these funds will be arrived at before the beginning of or early in the new fiscal year on the basis of estimates covering the entire fiscal year. However, this provision does not preclude agreement upon special services and the funds therefor at any time or the adjustment of annual estimates during the course of the year by agreement.

XII. OCCUPIED AREAS

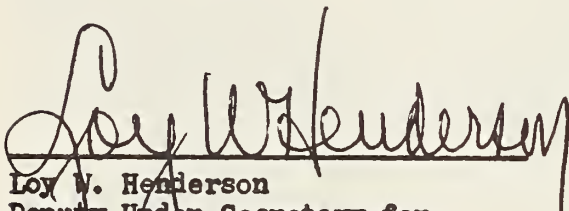
In the case of Germany and Austria the Agricultural Attache Service will, for fiscal year 1955, continue to be financed from funds appropriated to the Department of State for service in

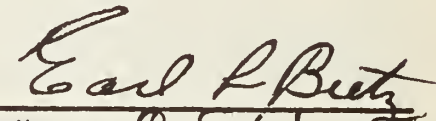
occupied

occupied areas. The employees will continue under direction of the High Commissioners. The High Commissioners will receive agricultural instructions on attache service activities from the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture will assume financial responsibility for agricultural attache work in Germany and Austria on July 1, 1955. The agricultural attaches will continue to be a part of the integrated staffs under the direction of the High Commissioners, later to be designated as Ambassadors, who will continue to receive their instructions on agricultural attache service activities from the Department of Agriculture.

XIII. EFFECTIVE DATE, AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

This agreement will be effective as of November 1, 1954. This agreement may be amended at any time by agreement by the two Departments. Either Department may terminate the agreement at the beginning of a new fiscal year.


Loy W. Henderson
Deputy Under Secretary for
Administration
Department of State


W. R. M. C. E. W.

Date April 1, 1955

Date April 20, 1955

